



February 22, 2016

The Honorable Michael Nofs
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing in support of your energy legislation – Senate Bill 437 – that puts Michigan first, and Monarch Welding & Engineering supports the goals of ensuring reliability, affordability, and a long term investment in our energy infrastructure. We consider adoption of this legislation critical to the long term economic health of our company and the state.

We are a Michigan based union contractor that builds, repairs and maintains boilers necessary for the energy industry. Since 1992, we have generated over 4.9 million boilermaker man hours within our state alone to support mostly the energy industry. Annually, over 800 W-2's are mailed to our employees, mainly Michigan residents, who also support Michigan products and Michigan industries.

Being solely Michigan based, we pay taxes here, make purchases here, employ and train workers here. In turn, our 4 strategically located offices/shops in Warren, Bay City, Muskegon and Union City and our employees are customers of Michigan utility companies here. The interdependence of Michigan residents supporting Michigan businesses; as well as the inverse, has been accomplished through building, repair and maintenance of energy plants for generations of Michigan residents. In my case, that is 5 generations of family members.

Our state is entering a period when we will see a dramatic transformation of our energy sector. Over the next decade, Michigan's energy infrastructure will see levels of capital investments the likes of which our state has not seen in over fifty years. These investments are critical to maintaining the same standard of service we enjoy today.

Projections are that Michigan's utility industry will invest billions of dollars to replace retired electric generation, and modernize aging electric and natural gas distribution systems. This transformation creates a once-in-a-generation type of economic opportunity for Michigan-based businesses. The policy reforms put forth in your legislation are critical to ensuring that Michigan workers at Michigan companies build the energy infrastructure of the next century.

When Michigan's utility industry makes investments, they are increasingly doing so with local, Michigan-based companies. As a company that represents the thousands of businesses within the energy sector supply chain here in Michigan, we are excited about these investments and what they can mean to our future. The reforms in your legislation that require all energy providers meet local reliability requirements are critical to maintaining this network of local businesses.



Now is the time to take action on these important policy reforms and secure Michigan's energy – and economic – future. With the right energy policy in place, Michigan's future is bright.

Sincerely,

MONARCH WELDING & ENGINEERING, INC.

23635 Mound Rd.
Warren, MI 48091

1566 Tech Dr.
Bay City, MI 48706

519 W. Hackley Ave.
Muskegon, MI 49444

1277 Arbogast Rd. (@M60)
Union City, MI 49094

Brian Wimmer
President